

RESPONSE
USAN 09/809,248

REMARKS

Initially, it is noted that while the original Office Action was apparently sent by facsimile and bears a mailing date of October 14, 2003, a follow-up copy of the Office Action was forwarded from the Examiner on or around October 27, 2003, in which the Examiner corrected the response period from thirty (30) days, to three months from the Office Action date. Therefore, in order to clarify the record, it is Applicants' belief that the due date for responding to the Office Action stands at January 27, 2004. Accordingly, no extension of time is believed to be necessary attendant to this response.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has apparently now reformulated the original election of species requirement which was first issued on March 26, 2003. In the present action, a larger number of species appear to be identified (eleven species, versus the four species originally identified).

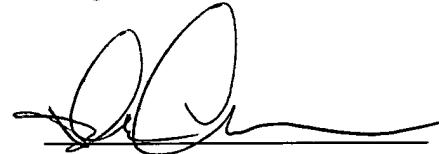
Nevertheless, the species of Figures 7A-C continues to be separately identified as an electable species; this is the same species that Applicants elected in the prior response. Therefore, presently, Applicants simply reaffirm the election of the species of Figures 7A-C.

Claims 8, 9, 27, 28 and 65-76 are directly readable upon the elected species. Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 14-20, 22-26, 29, 33-58, 60-64, 77, 78 and 80-84 are either generic or are at least subgeneric to the subject matter of the elected claims, and therefore must be examined with the elected group.

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Prompt and favorable action on the merits is now respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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